



Office of Public Instruction  
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## Montana Pupil Transportation News and Updates May/June/July 2003



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### 2003 MAPT CONFERENCE

The MAPT Conference was held in Butte Montana, June 18 - 20, 2003 at the Copper King Hotel and Conference Center. With Conference attendance nearing the 300 mark, the MAPT committee declared the conference a huge success.

The Conference host, Mel Rauch was very busy with all the preparations and held up quite well under the many demands of the conference. The MAPT Board expressed their many thanks for a job well done.

The vendors did a wonderful job of hosting functions and breaks. They brought new and old items for attendees to look at and to buy. A large part of the success of the conference is due to the generosity of the Vendors. Thanks again to these folks.

Transportation Person of the Year went to our very own Linda Michel. Linda is moving on with an exciting new venture. She has opened a new store in Great Falls called *Scrapbooks And More* and Linda finds that there is just not enough time left for the demands of the MAPT board. We wish Linda much success and we ask that she stay in touch.

Congratulations to:

Montana Highway Patrol *Driver of the Year*

**Sheila Egged** of Big Sky Bus Lines

Montana Highway Patrol *Aid of the Year*

**Rose Curtiss** of Cascade Public Schools

Thanks to everyone for their attendance and participation in the 2003 MAPT Conference in Butte, Montana.

### TRANSPORTATION PAYMENT WENT OUT IN JUNE

The transportation reimbursement advice was emailed to districts on June 25, 2003. Please review the information carefully. We make every effort to eliminate errors but it is always a good idea to conduct a review. If there is a problem, please put it in writing and either email to [mmougeot@state.mt.us](mailto:mmougeot@state.mt.us) or fax it to (406) 444-0509. Your help is very much appreciated.

### *Where can I find the Transportation Spreadsheet for budgeting purposes?*

Go to the OPI Web Site at [www.opi@state.mt.us](http://www.opi@state.mt.us). Choose <Pupil Transportation> from the programs and services drop down listing. You will find a link called <Transportation Excel Spreadsheet for Budgeting>. Please call me at 444-3096 if you have any questions.

### *Where can I find the new forms??*

We have placed all of the new forms on the transportation web site. On your browser, go to [www.opi@state.mt.us](http://www.opi@state.mt.us) then click on <programs and services>, then click on <Pupil Transportation>. You will find all of the forms there under <Forms> in the yellow box on the right.

### *Where can I find the Transportation Payment Information and when will it be there?*

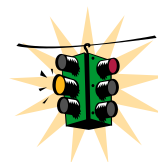
We have placed all of the payment information at the transportation web site. On your browser, go to [www.opi@state.mt.us](http://www.opi@state.mt.us) then click on <Programs and Services>, then click on <Pupil Transportation>. You will find all of the forms there under <Forms> in the yellow box on the right. Just click on the following link or cut and paste the following link. If you need help or have questions about the link, please call Maxine at (406) 444-3096. <http://www.metnet.state.mt.us/schoolfinance/0000D9D9-80000007/00016F9F-80000007/>.

### *How far before a stop must a driver turn on the amber lights?*

MCA 61-8-351 (3) states in part, "Amber flashing lights must be actuated by the driver approximately 150 feet in cities and approximately 500 feet in other areas before the bus is stopped to receive or discharge school children on the highway or street."



□ 150 FEET □



## PROMPTLY RETURN TRAINING VIDEOS

To reserve any of the training videos, please email Mike Waterman at [mwaterman@state.mt.us](mailto:mwaterman@state.mt.us) or you can reach him by calling (406) 444-4524. The driver training videos include:

*Evacuating a School Bus*

*Bus Evacuation for Special Ed Bus Drivers*

*Intervention Strategies for School Bus Drivers*

*Intervention Strategies for Special Ed Bus Drivers*

*Safe School Bus Crossing Procedures*

*Introduction to Special Ed Bus Driving*

*Necessary and Reasonable Force*

*Confidential Records*

*Children in Traffic*

*The Veteran Driver*

*The Safest Way Out*

*\*General Drivers Version*

*\*Special Needs Driver Version*

*\*General Student Education Version*

*Behavior Management*

*\*Transporting Special Needs Children*

*\*Kids are People, Too!*

*\*Don't Lose Your Touch*

*Minnesota School Bus Driver Development Series*

1. *\*Pre-Trip Inspection*

*\*Emergency Procedures*

2. *\*Fundamentals of Bus Driving*

*\*School Bus Driving Techniques*

3. *\*Winter and Adverse Conditions*

*\*Student Management*

4. *\*Emergency Evacuation*

*\*Ghosts of Grade Crossing X*

5. *\*Are You Reading Me*

*\*Children in Traffic*

These videos count toward the 10-hour annual training required by the 2002 Montana School bus Standards. When drivers watch these videos and there is discussion time afterwards, the entire amount of time spent will count towards the new training requirement.

The methods used for student management presented in the tapes for special needs students can be used in all kinds of situations whether the student has special needs or not.

Thanks go to Wayne Larsbak at Helena Public Schools for donating the tapes listed above, in blue and marked by an asterisk, to the OPI Training Video Library. If your district has tapes that you would like to add to the list, please contact me. We can always use more training tapes.

Don't forget to thank the bus drivers for the great job they did this year. Student safety and driver training remains the top priority!!

**The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. –Eleanor Roosevelt**



**When mom calls OPI regarding bus service, these are just some of the questions she has:**

1. Why can't the bus pick my kids up at our door?
2. The bus driver seems to pick on my child. What can I do to change the situation?
3. Can the district let just anyone take my child home when he gets sick at school?
4. There is a lot of bullying on my son's bus. How can I get help?

The answers to these and many other questions should be found in the school district policies. Policies that address the behavioral issues of students, drivers, and parents; policies that state clearly how bus routes are designed and implemented; policies that incorporate student and driver safety should be formulated, written, adopted and placed into a policy handbook. Parents should be made aware of policies so that they aren't surprised by an action taken to resolve an issue.

If a school district has appropriate written policy in place when a situation occurs, the outcome can be consistent, fair to all parties and known ahead of time.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**July 10, 2003** TR-4 Individual Transportation Contracts due to OPI

**August 2003** Bus Inspections are required before 1<sup>st</sup> semester begins

**August 23, 2003** Driver Training – Havre, Montana

**September 6, 2003** Driver Training – Kalispell, Montana

**June 23,24,25, 2004** MAPT Conference, Lewistown, Montana – Yogo Inn

**Update driver certificates, bus inspection forms, route information and contracts regularly. Make sure that you have the right bus on the right route.**